



Course PSCI 6333, Political and Civic Organizations
Professor Robert Lowry
Term Fall 2016
Meetings Thursday 7-9:45 pm, GR 4.208

Professor's Contact Information

Office Phone 972-883-6720
Office Location Green Hall 3.533
Email Address robert.lowry@utdallas.edu
Office Hours Tuesday 2-4, Thursday 5:30-6:30, or by appointment.

General Course Information

Course Description	<p>Political and civic organizations are the chief vehicles enabling individual citizens to come together and pursue common interests in politics and public life in democracies. The academic political science literature has traditionally focused on political parties and “interest groups,” but in recent years political scientists have focused more of their attention on organizations that are not overtly political, but that nonetheless provide opportunities for civic engagement and the creation of social capital.</p> <p>This course presents an institutional perspective on political parties, interest groups, and other organizations such as labor unions and non-profit organizations that are important actors in political and civic affairs. The emphasis is on internal operations of organizations, their strategic behavior, and interactions with government, including both regulation by the state and attempts to influence public decision makers.</p>
Learning Objectives/Outcomes	<p>On completing this course, students should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understand important theories and controversies regarding the formation, operation and impact of political and civic organizations in the United States.2. Be able to synthesize and critique the academic literature on political and civic organizations.
Required Texts & Materials	<p>The following books are in the bookstore and should be purchased:</p> <p>John H. Aldrich, <i>Why Parties? A Second Look</i>. The University of Chicago Press 2011.</p> <p>Raymond J. La Raja, <i>Small Change: Money, Political Parties and Campaign Finance Reform</i>. University of Michigan Press 2008.</p> <p>Frank R. Baumgartner, Jeffrey M. Berry, Marie Hojnacki, David C. Kimball, and Beth L. Leech, <i>Lobbying and Policy Change: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why</i>. University of Chicago Press 2009.</p>

	<p>The following books are available at the bookstore, but are also available as e-books through the UTD Library website:</p> <p>Seth E. Masket, <i>No Middle Ground: How Informal Party Organizations Control Nominations and Polarize Legislatures</i>. University of Michigan Press 2009.</p> <p>Matt Grossman, <i>The Not-so-Special Interests: Interest Groups, Public Representation, and American Governance</i>. Stanford University Press 2012.</p> <p>The remainder of the readings are listed and numbered at the end of the syllabus and are available through the UTD Library website or the course eLearning page.</p>
Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials	<p>Students who have not had an undergraduate course on political parties in the U.S. may want to get a copy of a text such as Marjorie Randon Hershey, <i>Party Politics in America</i>. Pearson, 16th ed. 2015.</p>

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Date	Topic(s)	Assignment*
Aug. 25	What's a party? Party formation in the U.S.	Aldrich ch. 1-5
Sept. 1	No class – APSA Annual Meeting	
Sept. 8	Evolution of U.S. parties	Aldrich ch. 6-9, [1]
Sept. 15	Informal party organizations	Masket
Sept. 22	More on parties	[2]-[5], La Raja ch. 1-2
Sept. 29	Modern parties and campaign finance	La Raja ch. 3-7, [6] Paper topics due
Oct. 6	Midterm Exam	
Oct. 13	Mobilizing interests I	[7] [8] Grossman Intro & ch. 1-3
Oct. 20	Mobilizing interests II	Grossman Ch. 4-6 & conclusion [9]
Oct. 27	Interest groups, campaign money & influence	[10]-[15]
Nov. 3	Lobbying & influence I	Baumgartner et al., ch. 1-6 & Appendix
Nov. 10	Lobbying & influence II	Baumgartner et al., ch. 7-12
Nov. 17	Student Presentations	
Nov. 24	No Class – Thanksgiving	
Dec. 1	Nonprofit organizations and labor unions	[16]-[20] Papers due
Dec. 9	Take-home Final Due, 5 pm	

* Numbers in brackets refer to readings listed at the end of the syllabus.

Course Policies

Grading Criteria	<p>In addition to weekly readings and discussion, there will be an in-class midterm exam on <u>October 6</u> a take-home exam handed out on the last day of class and due <u>December 9</u> (Friday) and a paper due <u>December 1</u>. Paper topics are due <u>September 29</u>. Students will make in-class presentations on their paper projects <u>November 17</u>. See page 4 of this syllabus for additional notes on papers.</p> <p>Course grades will be based on the following weights:</p>
-------------------------	--

	Class participation 25% Midterm exam 20 Take-home final 25 In-class presentation 5 Paper 25
Late Work	Make-up midterm exams will be allowed only if you provide documentation of a family or medial excuse. Late term papers will be penalized 20 % for each day they are late, including weekends.
Class Attendance and Participation	Attendance is expected, and unexcused absences will affect your class participation score. Students are expected to do the assigned readings before class and come prepared to discuss them.
University Policies	Additional UTD policies regarding student conduct and discipline, campus carry, academic integrity, email use, withdrawing from class, grievance procedures, incomplete grades, disability services, religious holy days, and resources to help you succeed can be found at http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/ .

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

Notes on the Term Paper

For the term paper, you have the choice of writing a critical analysis of the literature, a case study, or a design for an empirical research project. A one-page statement of your proposed topic is due in class September 29. Presentations of work-in-progress will occur in class November 17. Final papers are due December 1. Papers should not exceed 15 double-spaced pages of text and footnotes (minimum 11-point font), plus a list of references and any appendices, tables or figures.

Below are a few thoughts on each of the options:

Critical Analysis

A critical analysis of the literature is not just a summary. The goal is to generate some research questions that merit further study. This could be done, for example, by arguing that the existing research in an area is incomplete with respect to one or more important questions; or by pointing out that different theories are inconsistent; or by arguing that existing findings are context-specific and would not necessarily apply to other settings (e.g., existing research on interest groups and mobilization may not apply to use of the internet). In any event, you should cite the relevant literature, critique it, and explain why the research questions you have identified would lead to important contributions to our understanding.

Case Study

The case study option would focus on one specific political or civic organization and analyze it in the context of the issues raised by the academic literature. The key is to show how this organization illustrates, extends, or contradicts existing findings. The paper should include a discussion of the extent to which you can generalize your findings to other organizations or contexts.

Empirical Research Designs

The goal for this option is to develop a plan that could be used to conduct an original, empirical investigation. It should include the following elements:

1. A statement of the research question. Why is it an interesting/important question? What contribution will be made to the academic literature or contemporary policy debates?
2. A brief summary of previous research on this question.
3. One or more testable hypotheses to be explored. Explain the reasoning behind each hypothesis.
4. Identification of the relevant dependent, independent, and control variables to be studied.
5. A plan for operationalizing key variables and collecting data.
6. Identification of techniques for analyzing the data and testing the hypotheses, to the extent you can.
7. A summary of preliminary results (if any) that suggest further investigation is warranted.
8. Discussion of problems that you might encounter.

The project should be one that a graduate student might actually complete. You may assume some financial support, but it should be similar to what might be available through dissertation grants.

Additional Readings

Readings labeled **eJournal** or **eBook** can be found through the library website by searching for the journal or book title in the catalog. **eLearning** indicates that a link is posted there.

- [1] Kathleen Bawn, Martin Cohen, David Karol, Seth Masket, Hans Noel, and John Zaller. 2012. "A Theory of Political Parties: Groups, Policy Demands and Nominations in American Politics." *Perspectives on Politics*, 10(September): 571-597. **eJournal**
- [2] Hans J. G. Hassell. 2016. "Party Control of Party Primaries: Party Influence in Nominations for the US Senate." *The Journal of Politics* 78(January):75-87. **eJournal**
- [3] Ryan D. Enos and Eitan D. Hersh. 2015. "Party Activists as Campaign Advertisers: The Ground Campaign as a Principal-Agent Problem." *American Political Science Review* 109(May): 252-278. **eJournal**
- [4] Shigeo Hirano and James M. Snyder, Jr. 2007. "The Decline of Third-Party Voting in the United States." *The Journal of Politics* 69(February): 1-16. **eJournal**
- [5] Elizabeth Rigby and Gerald C. Wright. 2013. "Political Parties and Representation of the Poor in the American States." *American Journal of Political Science* 57(July): 552-565. **eJournal**
- [6] Raymond J. La Raja. 2013. "Richer Parties, Better Politics? Party-Centered Campaign Finance Laws and American Democracy." *The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research on Contemporary Politics* 11(October): 313-338. **eJournal**
- [7] Mancur Olson. 1971. "The 'By-Product' and 'Special Interest' Theories." In *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*, 132-168. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. **eLearning**
- [8] John R. Wright. 2003. "The History, Organization and Regulation of Interest Groups." In *Interest Groups and Congress: Lobbying, Contributions, and Influence*, 9-36. Longman. **eLearning**
- [9] Kay Lehman Schlozman, Philip Edward Jones, Hye Young You, Traci Burch, Sidney Verba, and Henry E. Brady. 2015. "Organizations and the Democratic Representation of Interests: What Does It Mean When Those Organizations Have No Members?" *Perspectives on Politics* 13(December): 1017-1029. **eJournal**
- [10] Richard L. Hall and Frank Wayman. 1990. "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees." *American Political Science Review* 84(November): 797-820. **eJournal**
- [11] Joshua L. Kalla and David E. Broockman. 2016. "Campaign Contributions Facilitate Access to Congressional Officials: A Randomized Field Experiment." *American Journal of Political Science* 60(July):545-558. **eJournal**

- [12] Alexander Hertel-Fernandez. 2014. "Who Passes Business's 'Model Bills'? Policy Capacity and Corporate Influence in U.S. State Politics." *Perspectives on Politics* 12(September): 582-602. **eJournal**
- [13] Daniel Chand. 2015. "Anonymous Money in Campaigns: Is Sunlight the Best Disinfectant?" *The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research on Contemporary Politics* 13(July): 269-288. **eJournal**
- [14] Wendy L. Hansen, Michael S. Rocca and Brittany Leigh Ortiz. 2015. "The Effects of *Citizens United* on Corporate Spending in the 2012 Presidential Election." *The Journal of Politics* 77(April):535-545. **eJournal**
- [15] Susan Webb Yackee. 2006. "Sweet-Talking the Fourth Branch: The Influence of Interest Group Comments on Federal Agency Rulemaking." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 16(January):103-124. **eJournal**
- [16] Jeffrey M. Berry with David F. Arons. 2003. "Nonprofits as Interest Groups" and "The Regulation of Lobbying." In *A Voice for Nonprofits*, 24-65. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press. **eBook**
- [17] Kristin A. Goss (editor). 2016. "Why Political Scientists Should Study Organized Philanthropy." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 49(July): 433-471. **eJournal**
- [18] Jan E. Leighley and Jonathan Nagler. 2007. "Unions, Voter Turnout, and Class Bias in the U.S. Electorate, 1964-2004." *The Journal of Politics* 69(May): 430-441. **eJournal**
- [19] Benjamin Radcliff and Patricia A. Davis. 2000. "Labor Organization and Electoral Participation in Industrial Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science* 44(January): 132-141. **eJournal**
- [20] Sarah F. Anzia and Terry M. Moe. 2015. "Public Sector Unions and the Costs of Government." *The Journal of Politics* 77(January):114-127. **eJournal**